

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In response to the objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a), Applicant respectfully provides New Sheets of Figures 5a, 5b, and 5c. No new matter is added. The figures are supported at least by the specification at page 14, lines 5-9.

REMARKS

Claims 15-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 30 is cancelled, and claims 15-18, 20, 23, 28 and 29 are amended, and new claim 32 is added. The new claim does not include new matter and is supported by Figures 1b, 3b, 5b, and 5c.

In response to the Restriction Requirement of paragraph 3, Applicant agrees that claim 31 is part of Species III and is thus withdrawn.

With respect to the drawing objection, Applicant has submitted new drawings 5a, 5b and 5c. The drawings are supported by the specification at page 4, lines 16-19; page 6, lines 7-23; and page 14, lines 5-9. The new drawings are also based on existing drawings 3a and 3b with the addition of the "multiplicity of flexible elements" illustrated.

35 USC § 112 Rejection

Claims 15-18, 20, 23, and 27-30 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 15, 20, 23, and 28 to overcome the cited deficiencies. Claim 29 is amended to overcome the Examiner's contention of indefiniteness.

35 USC § 102 Rejection

Claims 15-18, 20, 23, 28, and 29 were rejected as anticipated by Fletcher (U.S. Patent No. 3,187,797). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's reading of Fletcher. The water deflecting annuli of Fletcher includes a wear resistant strip or knob 1a, 12a, 30 and 35 at the distal end of the annulus. In general, Fletcher describes a disk shaped annulus extending from the rim and not a streamlined structure. Thus Fletcher does not describe the apparatus of the amended independent claims 15, 28 and 29 or the dependent claims.

With respect to claim 18, Applicant is claiming a multiplicity of separate elements extending from the rim

Claims 15, 23, and 28 are rejected as anticipated by Ralph (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,100). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's characterization of Ralph. Figures 9-9c do not show any structure bridging the gap between the tire and rim. The line in figures 9-9c that covers the hub is not a separate structure but the view of the tire. Thus Ralph is not applicable to the present claim sets and does not anticipate as no structure is presented.

35 USC § 103(a) Rejections

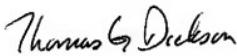
The Examiner has rejected claim 27 based on Fletcher and Official Notice of the Examiner regarding landing gear on passenger jets. This rejection is moot based on the amendments to claim 15, from which claim 27 depends, and the argument presented above.

The Examiner rejected claims 29 and 30 based on Ralph in view of Fletcher. As provided above, Ralph discloses a landing gear brake arrangement. Nowhere in Ralph is a motivation to combine presented involving the structure related to streamlining the aerodynamic profile of the landing gear. In view of the argument represented and the amendments to the claims this rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas G. Dickson
Registration No. 51,616

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-3004